

invitees, if any, are not busy between said start time and said end time on said date;
and

presenting to the event coordinator a free time dialogue for displaying
information regarding the availability of said invitees, wherein said free time dialogue
comprises:

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a selection portion for enabling the coordinator to select one display
option from a set of display options, wherein said set of display options
comprises an option to display only the names of the invitees for which
availability information could not be found, an option to display only the
names of the invitees that were determined to be not busy between said start
time and said end time on said date, and an option to display only the names of
the invitees that were determined to be busy between said start time and said
end time on said date; and

a listing portion for listing zero or more invitee names based on the
display option selected by the coordinator.

REMARKS

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated
January 23, 2002. Claims 1-39 are currently pending. Claim 32 has been amended. Claims
1, 4-6, 25, 32 and 33 are independent. Each of the points raised in the Office Action are
addressed below.

Priority

Applicant hereby confirms that he is the sole inventor of the invention claimed in the
subject application.

§112 Second Paragraph Rejection

Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter regarded as the invention. Although not conceding the merits of this rejection, Applicant has amended claim 32 in accordance with the Action's request. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection

Claims 1-39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious over Microsoft Outlook 97, as disclosed in the book, The ABCs of Outlook 97, the article "The Future is Bright for Microsoft Outlook 97," and the book entitled, Running Microsoft Outlook 97, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,790,974 (Tognazzini).

To that end, Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention was completed and reduced to practice well before the earliest publication date of these references (November 1, 1996), as evidenced by the enclosed Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 and supporting exhibits. Thus, Applicant respectfully requests that all of the references be removed as prior art in the subject application.

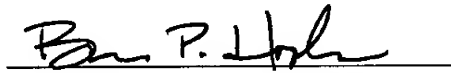
In view of the above-noted references being removed as prior art to the subject application, Applicant respectfully requests that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant submit that the issues raised in the outstanding Office Action have all been addressed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Reston office by telephone at (703) 464-4800. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brian P. Hopkins", is written over a horizontal line.

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